In the Claims:

1. (AMENDED) Prodrug compounds of inhibitors of the enzymatic activity of dipeptidyl peptidase IV (DP IV), which [prodrug]compounds have the general formula A-B-C, wherein
A is an amino acid,
B is a chemical bond between A and C or is an amino acid, and
C is a stable inhibitor of DP IV without C-terminal phosphonate residue.

2. (AMENDED) [Prodrug]The compounds according to claim 1, wherein [characterised in that] B is selected from a group consisting of proline, hydroxyproline, thiazolidinecarboxylic acid, dehydroproline, pipecolic acid, azetidinecarboxylic acid or aziridinecarboxylic acid.

3. (AMENDED) [Prodrug]The compounds according to claim 1 [or 2, characterised in that] wherein[,] B is selected from a group consisting of proline or hydroxyproline.

4. (AMENDED) [Prodrug]The compounds according to claim 1 wherein said stable inhibitor [one of the preceding claims, characterised in that C] is selected from a group consisting of [an] aminoacylpyrrolidide, aminoacylthiazolidide or N-dipeptidyl, O-acyl hydroxylamine.

5. (AMENDED) [Prodrug]The compounds according to claim 1 [one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the] wherein said stable inhibitors are present in salt form.

6. (AMENDED) [Prodrug]The compounds according to claim 1 [one of the preceding claims, characterised in that] wherein A-B is a dipeptide of formula Ile-Pro or Gly-Pro.

7. (AMENDED) A [P]pharmaceutical composition [, especially] for oral administration containing prodrug compounds of inhibitors of dipeptidyl peptidase IV wherein [characterised in that it comprises] said composition comprises at least one prodrug compound [according to one of the preceding claims] optionally in combination with customary carriers or excipients.

8. (AMENDED) A method of using [Use of prodrug] compounds of stable inhibitors of dipeptidyl peptidase IV [or] in a pharmaceutical compositions [according to one of the preceding

claims] in the preparation of a [medicament] pharmaceutical composition for the temporally controlled *in vivo* inhibition of DP IV comprising providing a compound of the general formula A-B-C, wherein

A is an amino acid,

B is a chemical bond between A and C or is an amino acid, and

C is a stable inhibitor of DP IV without C-terminal phosphonate residue.

9. (AMENDED) The method of claim 8 [Use of prodrug compounds or pharmaceutical compositions according to one of claims 1 to 6] wherein said use is in cell[-], tissue[-] or organ[-]specific enzymatic inhibition of DP IV.

10. (AMENDED) A method of treating [Use of prodrug compounds or pharmaceutical compositions according to one of claims 1 to 6 in the treatment of] metabolic disorders in mammals that can be treated by modulating the DP IV enzymatic activity of a mammal comprising of the step of administering to said mammal a compound of the general formula.

11. (AMENDED) The method of claim 10 [Use according to claim 9] wherein said treatment is in the treatment of metabolic disorders in humans.

12. (AMENDED) The method of claim 10 [Use according to claim 9] wherein, said compounds are used to treat[in the treatment of] impaired glucose tolerance, glucosuria, hyperlipidaemia, metabolic acidoses, diabetes mellitus, diabetic neuropathy, obesity and nephropathy and of sequelae of diabetes mellitus in mammals.

13. (NEWLY ADDED) The compounds of claim 1 wherein said compounds comprise said stable inhibitor of DP IV within a complex comprising said prodrug, said prodrug preventing the degradation and increasing the activity of said stable inhibitors.